Matrika #2 @7314
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An athame is traditionally a double-bladed knife with a black handle. Very □
few people make their own, although it is possible to do so. Most people □
obtain one and personalize it in some way. This is most commonly done by □
inscribing symbols or runes on it. In some traditions specific symbols are □
required and have been handed down through their lineage. In others and among □
ecclectic Wicca groups, these can be personal.

How do you do this? You cover the blade with Parrafin. (WAX) Then you let it □
cool. Next you take a LONG sharp NAIL and inscribe the symbols in the wax. □
Then you use dilute Hydrochloric acid - careful, this stuff is dangerous, and □
drop by drop place on the blade where it shows through due to your □
inscriptions. When the acid has worked - usually fairly quickly - you rinse □
the blade under running water THOROUGHLY and then you use VERY hot water and a □
lot of elbow grease to remove the wax.

If ANY ACID FALLS ON THE SKIN RINSE THOROUGHLY UNDER COLD WATER IMMEDIATELY □
and if there is a burn of any type, seek immediate medical help. IF it gets □
in the eyes, again rinse immediately and completely and CALL THE EMT/PARAMEDIC □
UNITS. It is best when doing this if you wear either some type of glasses or □
goggles and rubber gloves.

DO NOT INGEST THE ACID OR LEAVE IT WHERE IT COULD BE INGESTED BY A CHILD OR □
ANIMAL. Also be careful of how you dispose of the rest of it - do so in an □
environmentally SAFE way.

This sounded like a little too much for me, so I tried another method. Koren □
made a beautiful athame for me and I personalized it by putting herbs of my □
choice in the handle and sealing this with a favorite crystal of mine - again □
with his help.

Oh, if you absolutely can't get a double-bladed knife - in Massechusetts, for □

example, possesion of such a weapon is a CRIME - get a single-bladed knife and □
grind down the other edge as much as you can.

As I said, the Athame is USUALLY black-handled, but there are exceptions - I □
saw one Lady use a knife with a deer's hoof for the handle. She was oriented □
toward her Native American heritage as much as her Craft, so it had deep □
significance for her. I also saw - in fact a friend of mine was selling it - □
a BEAUTIFUL homemade athame with copper tubing forming a cross hilt and □
crystals in each of the three tips for the handle. (this was almost a small □
sword) AS ALWAYS USE WHAT SPEAKS TO YOUR OWN SOUL!!!!!

The athame is usully NOT used in circle for anything other than ritual and □
ceremonial purposed. If you need to inscribe a candle for Magick or slice the □
bread for the cakes and wine part of the rite, you usually use a BOLINE or □
white - handled knife, often a small dagger or even a pen-knife, set aside for □
these purposes.